

Today is the first day of winter, as well as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

This day has been commemorated nationwide every year since 1990 to remember the homeless persons whose lives and deaths might otherwise go without any public recognition. This year, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 325 supporting the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day and I am proud to tell you that the United States House of Representatives adopted this resolution under suspension of the rules in time for this year's Memorial Day.

Throughout my home state of Florida, this important day is being recognized, along with over 200 other local municipalities, organizations, and statewide organizations throughout the United States. With the support of the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Consumer Advisory Board, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless neighbors and friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

I know that the people of the 23rd Congressional district of Florida are doing their part to remember the people who lived and died in our community without a home.

Today also gives us the opportunity to commend the efforts of the States, territories, and possessions of the United States who support the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, to encourage those not already doing so, and to salute the dedicated professionals and organizations who provide assistance 365 days a year to people in need.

It is time we acknowledge, as a nation, all of the people in our country living on the streets who have paid the ultimate price for our failure to end homelessness. It is my deep hope that, with the coming of a new year, we keep this cause of ending homelessness urgent and that we all recommit ourselves to preventing such deaths in the future.